Finding a Responsible Electronics Recycler

*Select a certified electronics recycler. There are two certification standards: the **Responsible Recycling Practices (R2)** standard, and the **e-Stewards®** standard.*

To find an electronics recycler certified to the **Responsible Recycling (R2)** standard, check **www.R2solutions.org**

To find an electronics recycler certified to the **e-Stewards®** standard, go to **http://e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler/**

Certified electronics recyclers may not be available in all areas, requiring greater care in choosing a recycler. When choosing an electronics recycler, follow a **checklist** with recommended guidelines for selection.

Checklist for selection of Electronics Recycling Services:

http://www.epa.gov/fec/resources/select.pdf

Guidelines for On-site Review of Electronics Recyclers:

http://www.epa.gov/fec/resources/onsite_review.pdf

What can I eCycle?

Electronics that can be eCycled include several items in these categories: desktop computing, printers, peripherals, monitors, office equipment, audio/video equipment, mobile devices, telecom equipment, storage equipment, mainframes, networking equipment, parts (such as AC adapters, memory, motherboards, CD/DVD drives), healthcare equipment, banking equipment (such as receipt printers, ATM machines), point-of-sale equipment (such as barcode scanners and touch screen monitors), and miscellaneous items (such as modems, software, cables, cameras, video games, tablets).

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

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eCycle!

Information and tips for institutions on the responsible purchase, operation and end-of-life management of electronic equipment

Electronics Stewardship at all Life-cycle Stages

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Responsible Electronics Management

Responsible electronics management involves three phases:

1. Acquisition and Procurement,

2. Operations and Maintenance, and

3. End-of Life Management.

Acquisition and Procurement

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is the premier method for institutions and large purchasers to buy electronics products based upon ratings of their overall environmental attributes. EPEAT rates several types of commonly used electronics using a Bronze, Silver or Gold rating. In the U.S., there are now over 2,400 electronic products registered on EPEAT for three categories: Computers and Displays; Imaging Equipment; and TVs. See www.epeat.net to view the products and their ratings. See also http://federalelectronicschallenge.net/resources/aquisit.htm for additional information on acquisition and procurement.

Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance activities encompass a variety of electronics issues, including energy conservation and efficiency, efficient use of imaging equipment, and extending product life.

Some excellent resources are available at the Federal Electronics Challenge website for improving the operations and maintenance of electronic equipment:

http://www.epa.gov/fec/publications.html

End-of-Life Management

Why use a certified electronics recycler for end-of-life management? Certified electronics recyclers follow a hierarchy for processing used electronics that first determines whether the used electronic equipment can be reused, or if it can be repaired or refurbished for reuse. If the equipment cannot be reused, then certified recyclers will either disassemble used equipment for parts; break it down into its basic material components, such as plastics, metals or glass; or send it to responsible processors for processing. This comprises the end-of-life management stage for used electronics. The process is also commonly referred to as "eCycling" or by the term "electronics recycling."

For additional information on the purchase of energy efficient electronics, go to the ENERGY STAR website at:

www.energystar.gov

To learn about sound, cost-effective energy management and investment practices to enhance the nation's energy security and environmental stewardship, go to:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/

Some benefits of using a responsible, certified electronics recycler:

- *Data destruction, data security*

- *Worker safety*

- *Environmental protection*

- *Promotes reuse and materials recovery of used electronics equipment and materials*

- *Must comply with all environmental, health, and safety legal requirements both domestically and internationally*

SEE REVERSE FOR HOW TO SELECT RESPONSIBLE ELECTRONICS RECYCLERS.